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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**VINCENNES MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF
SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MATERIAL INVOLVING MINORS**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that WALTER D. BLESSINGER, 45, of Vincennes, Indiana, was sentenced to 41 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Larry J. McKinney following his guilty plea on December 20, 2005, to possession of sexually explicit material involving minors. This case was the result of a investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to evidence submitted to the Court in the change of plea hearing the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted a search of BLESSINGER'S residence on October 26, 2004, and seized a computer operated by BLESSINGER. An examination of the computer resulted in the discovery of images of minors engaged in sexually explicit acts. The search by the Federal Bureau of Investigation was based on evidence that BLESSINGER had participated in an internet-based file sharing network that allowed for the distribution of sexually explicit materials

involving minors between computer users throughout the United States and internationally.

BLESSINGER stipulated that the images he possessed included material that depicted sadistic or masochistic conduct involving minors.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Todd S. Shellenbarger, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge McKinney also imposed 2 years supervised release following BLESSINGER's release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, BLESSINGER must register as a sex offender and must not have unsupervised contact with minors.

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